

Appl. No. 10/716,677
Amendment dated Sept. 12, 2005
Response to Office Action of June 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS FOR ALLOWANCE

Reconsideration of the subject application is requested. It is believed that the application is in condition for allowance because of the following reasons.

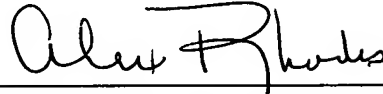
Claim 9 has been allowed. Claim 2 has been amended to meet the Examiner's condition for allowance. Claims 4-8 which were depended on cancelled claim 1 have been amended to depend from claim 2. Since claim 2 is in allowable form, for the same reason as claim 2, they are allowable.

Claim 11 which was neither allowed nor rejected in the Office Action has been re-written in independent form to include all of the limitations of cancelled claim 10. Amended claim 11 is directed to a method for preventing injury and food contamination from sharp pointed tines of a large kitchen or barbecue fork including the novel steps of magnetically retaining a guard in positions of covering and uncovering relationship. It is believed that new claim 12 meets the statutory requirements for allowance.

For the above reasons it is requested that the Examiner act favorably on this amendment and pass this case to allowance. Should the Examiner believe differently, a telephone conference would be appreciated.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Rhodes", is written over a horizontal line.

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